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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/626,647

07/25/2003

Kaori Oki

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EXAMINER

QIN, YIXING

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/626,647	Applicant(s) OKI ET AL.	
	Examiner Yixing Qin	Art Unit 2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 25 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/2/03, 8/24/05</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. These claims are directed towards the connection of a plurality of peripheral devices. However, they all depend on either claim 1 or claim 6, which are directed towards a single peripheral device. Claims 2, 3, 7, and 8 expands on claims 1 and 6 by stating that the means and methods of claims 1 and 6 can be adapted to a system with a plurality of peripheral devices attached to the information processing apparatus. These dependent claims do not actually further limit claims 1 and 6 since they are saying that the inventions of claims 1 and 6 can be adapted for usage in a broader environment. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1, 4, 6, 9 and 11 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kodimer et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,078)

Regarding claims 1, 6, 11, Kodimer discloses an information processing apparatus connected to a peripheral device by using a local interface, comprising:

display means for displaying an instruction input unit which can input or instruct a command that corresponds to said local interface and is used for controlling an operation of said peripheral device onto a display screen via a Web browser; (Figs. 16, 17 show available functions to perform on a copier through an user interface. The interface is a browser)

recognizing means for recognizing the operation instructed or inputted by said instruction input unit displayed by said display means; (Fig. 18, item S1807, 1809 – maintenance or diagnostic command is recognized)

calling means for calling a general program corresponding to the operation in response to the operation recognized by said recognizing means; (Fig. 18 is a flow chart for execution of the functions in S1810)

issuing means for issuing the command which can be interpreted by said peripheral device and corresponds to the local interface in response to execution of the general program called by said calling means; (Fig. 18, item S1810) and

transfer means for transferring the command issued by said issuing means to said peripheral device. (Fig. 18, item S1810 also shows that the copier receives the maintenance or diagnostic instructions)

Regarding claims 4, 9, Kodimer discloses an apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising obtaining means for waiting for and obtaining an execution result in said peripheral device of the command issued by said issuing means, (Fig. 18, S1811 and column 11, line 60 – column 12, line 3) and

wherein when said obtaining means obtains the execution result of the command issued by said issuing means, said display means dynamically displays the execution result of said command onto said display screen. (Fig. 18, S1811 and column 11, line 60 – column 12, line 3 column 11, lines 17-26 discloses that this information is displayed)

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5 and 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kodimer et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,078) in view of Sugiura et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,177,505)

Regarding claims 5, 10, the Kodimer reference discloses various maintenance and diagnostic functions.

It does not explicitly disclose "wherein said command is a cleaning command for cleaning nozzles of a printing mechanism provided for a printer serving as a peripheral device, and when execution of the cleaning command of said printer has normally been finished, said display means displays a message indicative of the normal end onto said display screen"

However, Sugiura discloses in column 4, lines 39-63 their invention discloses an apparatus/method/program for cleaning a print head.

Kodimer and Sugiura are combinable because Sugiura discloses a known function that can be implemented into the Kodimer invention.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have had a nozzle cleaning operation in the Kodimer invention.

The motivation would have been to expand the capabilities of the Kodimer inventions to provide more maintenance/diagnostic functions.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Kodimer and Sugiura to obtain the invention as specified.

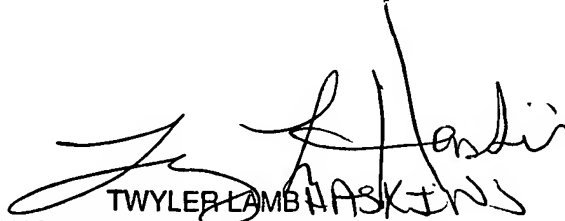
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yixing Qin whose telephone number is (571)272-7381. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Lamb can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

YQ


TWYLER LAMB
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER